

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 CPR-01 CU-02 CIAE-00 FBIE-00

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:JPLYLE:BH
APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN
SCA/VO:D.CASTEEL
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R 122235Z JAN 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

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FOR AMBASSADORS OR CHARGES FROM NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, TC, QA

SUBJECT: VISAS FOR UAE STUDENTS IN U.S.

REF: (A) ABU DHABI 17; (B) DOHA 13

1. ARP REGRETS RESOLUTION OF COMPLICATED QUESTION OF
ALTERNATIVE TO A-2 VISAS FOR ARABIAN PENINSULA STUDENTS
HAS TAKEN SO LONG. ATTEMPT IS BEING MADE TO RESOLVE
PROBLEM IN INNOVATIVE FASHION WITH EXCEPTIONAL EFFORT BEING
MADE TO ADAPT EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM TO NEEDS OF
ARABIAN PENINSULA STUDENTS AND EMBASSIES. WHOLE QUESTION
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COULD, OF COURSE, HAVE BEEN DISPOSED OF PROMPTLY BY

AGREEMENT TO DISCONTINUE ISSUANCE OF A-2 VISA AND REPLACEMENT OF A-2 VISAS BY "F" STUDENT VISAS. ALTHOUGH THIS COURSE WOULD HAVE RESULTED IN QUICK RESOLUTION OF A-2 VISA QUESTION AND IMMEDIATE EQUALITY OF TREATMENT FOR ALL, WE WOULD NOT HAVE SEEMED VERY SYMPATHETIC TO HONEST CONCERNS OF OUR ARAB FRIENDS.

2. DURING PERIOD THIS QUESTION IS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON, STUDENTS FROM QATAR AND UAE ARE NOT RECEIVING SAME TREATMENT AS STUDENTS FROM SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT. THIS SITUATION RESULTS NOT FROM WILLFUL MALICE, BUT FROM SIMPLE PRACTICALITY. WE CANNOT DEFEND EXTENSION OF

THE PRACTICE OF ISSUING A-2 VISAS WHEN THE BEST LEGAL ADVICE AVAILABLE TO US HAS FOUND THE PRACTICE PROBABLY ILLEGAL. BUT, IF WE ABRUPTLY DISCONTINUE ISSUANCE OF A-2 VISAS IN SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT BEFORE AN ALTERNATIVE IS SELECTED, MORE ADMINISTRATIVE CHAOS WILL RESULT. WE FEEL THAT DEPARTMENT'S ASSURANCES THAT QUESTION IS UNDER CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON, THAT A-2 VISA WILL CERTAINLY BE ABOLISHED, AND THAT PRESENT UNFORTUNATE SITUATION IS STRICTLY TEMPORARY AND PRACTICALLY UNAVOIDABLE SHOULD BE ADEQUATE TO OUR ARAB FRIENDS AND NOT CONSTRUED AS "A STUDIOUS ATTEMPT TO AVOID GIVING POSTS A STRAIGHT ANSWER".

3. FINALLY, WE WISH TO MAKE CLEAR ONCE AND FOR ALL THAT AN A-2 VISA ISSUED TO SAUDI AND KUWAITI STUDENTS DOES NOT RPT NOT ENTITLE HOLDER TO DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES. DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES ARE ONLY ACCORDED A-2 VISA HOLDERS ASSIGNED TO DIPLOMATIC AND STAFF POSITIONS AT EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES IN THE UNITED STATES. MOREOVER, IN DISCUSSING WHOLE QUESTION OF WHAT TYPE OF VISA IS ISSUED TO STUDENTS, POSTS SHOULD STRESS THAT VISA ISSUED DOES NOT REFLECT OUR JUDGMENT ON THE IMPORTANCE OF APPLICANT IN HIS OWN SOCIETY, BUT RATHER IS ISSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CATEGORIES OF ADMISSIBILITY AS DETAILED IN U.S. IMMIGRATION LAWS AND REGULATIONS.
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